

**NEW LEADERSHIP SEEKS CONTINUED SUCCESS AT CMA**

The past, present and future were the focus at the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) change of responsibility ceremony on Jan. 16, 2007. Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command, presided over the ceremony, during which Dale A. Ormond was named CMA acting director, replacing Michael A. Parker. "Without a doubt, CMA's accomplishments under Mike Parker have made the world a safer place," Griffin said, recognizing the agency's destruction of 42 percent of the U.S. unitary and binary chemical weapons.

Sgt. Maj. Jerry Curtiss presented the flag bearing CMA's distinctive unit insignia to Parker, who passed it to Griffin, symbolizing the transfer of authority. Griffin then passed the flag to Ormond, who completed the cycle by returning it to Curtiss.

Griffin encouraged Ormond to "build upon what Mike has established here."

Parker, who has led CMA since the Agency's inception in February 2003, also has been the program manager Assembled Chemical Weapons Alternatives (PM ACWA) since December 1996. He will continue to serve as PM ACWA.



*Participants in the change of responsibility ceremony at the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency stand at attention. From left are Michael A. Parker, former CMA director; Gen. Benjamin S. Griffin, commanding general of the U.S. Army Materiel Command; Dale A. Ormond, CMA acting director; and Dean G. Popps, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology).*

He spoke to the CMA work force assembled for the ceremony, noting that the agency's personnel "have the rare opportunity to make the world a better place through the elimination of chemical weapons."

While acting as CMA director, Ormond will continue to serve as deputy assistant secretary of the Army (Elimination of Chemical Weapons) DASA(ECW), providing executive level policy and oversight of Chemical Demilitarization Program projects for the assistant secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology)/ Army acquisition executive.

Ormond said he sees CMA as a family, made up of "innovative people who are dedicated to this program."

"My promise and commitment is to provide you with the leadership and guidance you need," Ormond said.

A U.S. Naval Academy graduate, Ormond has a master's degree in environmental systems engineering from Clemson University. Before serving as DASA(ECW), Ormond was the site project manager at CMA's Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility in Utah. There, he oversaw all aspects of chemical weapons destruction operations, including facility technical baseline management, resource management, community outreach and regulatory compliance.

Representing the assistant secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology) was Dean G. Popps, principal deputy assistant secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology). He noted that, through hard work, CMA "has brought great credit upon the Army and yourselves."

"You are Army civilians," he said. "You are Army strong."



*Dale A. Ormond, CMA acting director, presents the flag bearing the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency's (CMA) distinctive unit insignia to CMA Sgt. Maj. Jerry Curtiss during the change of responsibility ceremony.*



### CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

- **Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.,** has safely eliminated more than 22,000 VX nerve agent-filled M55 rockets since beginning its VX destruction campaign in July 2006.
- **Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah,** recently identified a leaking mustard agent bulk container in a storage igloo during routine monitoring operations. Depot workers used specialized equipment to contain the vapor and then moved the agent-filled container to another storage structure where it will be repaired and then returned to a storage igloo to await destruction. The earth-covered storage structure was filtered and no vapor escaped to the environment. Tooele County officials were notified and there was no danger to surrounding communities.
- **Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.,** has safely neutralized more than 37 percent of its VX nerve agent stockpile since beginning disposal operations in May 2005.
- **Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark.,** resumed rocket and agent processing after the successful completion of scheduled maintenance activities on the Liquid Incinerator and the Deactivation Furnace.
- **Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.,** has been recognized by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration for its exemplary performance and commitment to safety and health.
- **Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project** recently reached a significant milestone, the completion of Rapid Response System (RRS) operations at Pine Bluff Arsenal, Ark., one year ahead of schedule and under budget. The RRS began operations at Pine Bluff Arsenal in August 2005 and destroyed more than 5,300 Chemical Agent Identification Set (CAIS) items. CAIS items were once used to train Soldiers and civilians to identify and handle chemical agents.

### UMATILLA SAFELY DESTROYS LAST 8-INCH SARIN-FILLED ARTILLERY PROJECTILE

Workers at the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) have safely destroyed the last of 14,246 8-inch diameter sarin (GB) nerve agent projectiles. The facility began processing the projectiles in September 2006.

"This dedicated team effort puts us one step closer to safely eliminating all GB munitions at Umatilla," said Don Barclay, Army site project manager. "We remain focused on completing that mission."

After a six-week equipment changeover, workers will begin destroying the final GB nerve agent campaign munitions, 155mm diameter GB artillery projectiles, which are planned to be completed by mid-2007. After that, the facility will prepare for a series of VX nerve agent munitions disposal campaigns, beginning with M55 VX rockets. Once the VX nerve agent campaign is complete, the depot will dispose of its stockpile of mustard agent, which is stored in bulk containers.

The UMCDF has disposed of more than 108,000 rockets, bombs, ton containers and 8-inch projectiles since it began destroying chemical munitions in September 2004.



*The last 8-inch GB projectile in the Umatilla Chemical Depot stockpile was processed on Jan. 3 when it cleared the Metal Parts Furnace (MPF) at 8:23 a.m. Posing with the final M426 projectile are, from left, Paul Carlson, Randy May, Tom Bevington and Clint Camarillo.*

### FINAL SHIPMENT OF AGENT-CONTAMINATED WASTE SUCCESSFULLY DESTROYED

The last of 1,148 drums of contaminated secondary waste was successfully destroyed off site at a commercial incineration facility in Port Arthur, Texas. The drums were transported from Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Md., to the Port Arthur facility via 17 trucks, which were monitored before leaving APG and upon arrival in Port Arthur. To date all 2,761 drums of secondary waste have been safely destroyed at the commercial incineration facility. The final stage of APG's disposal facility demolition is under way and is expected to be complete by spring 2007.



*Drums of secondary waste loaded for safe transport to an off-site facility for disposal.*